

UNION COLLEGE.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST

VOL. IX. NOVEMBER, 1885. No. 2.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

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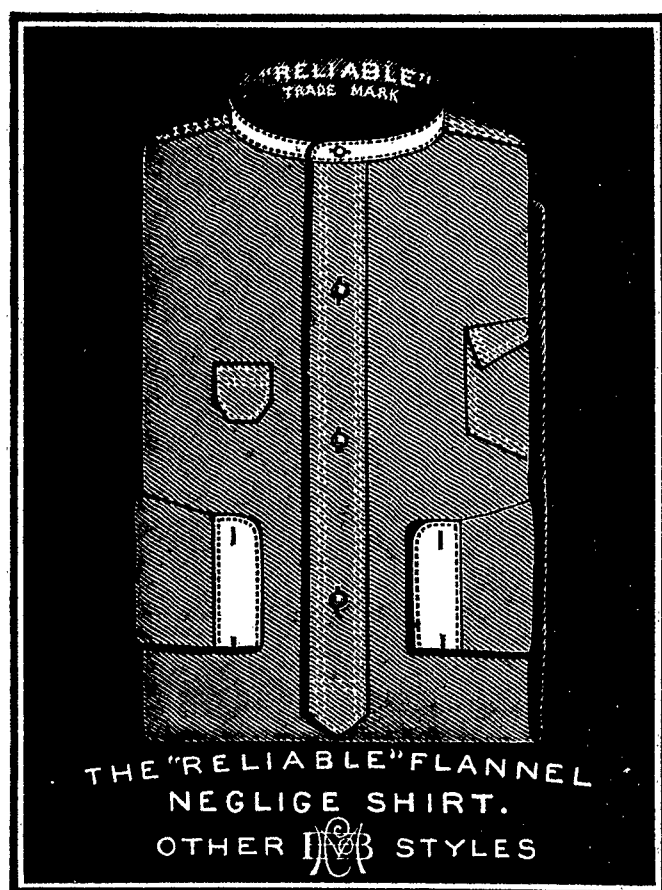
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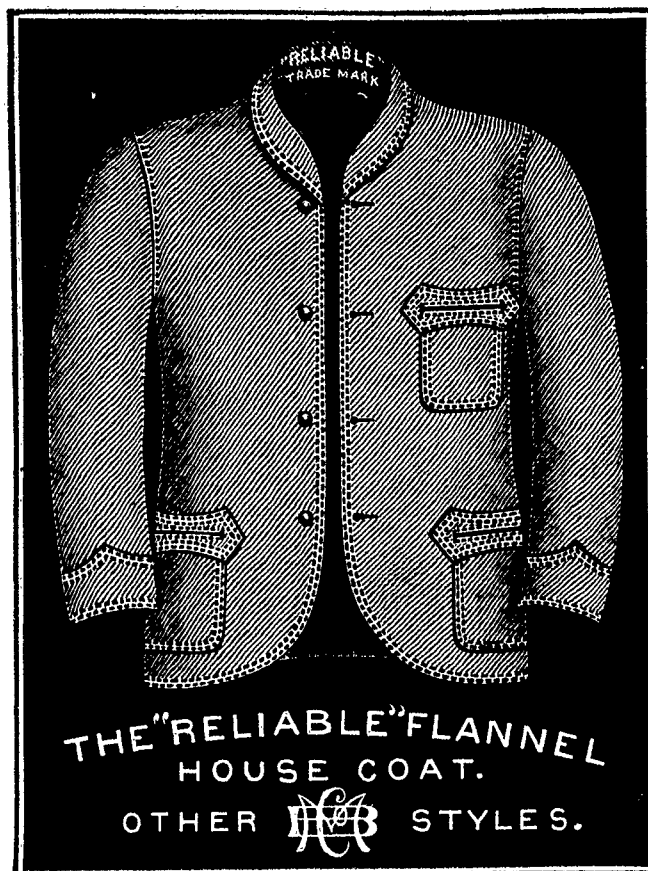
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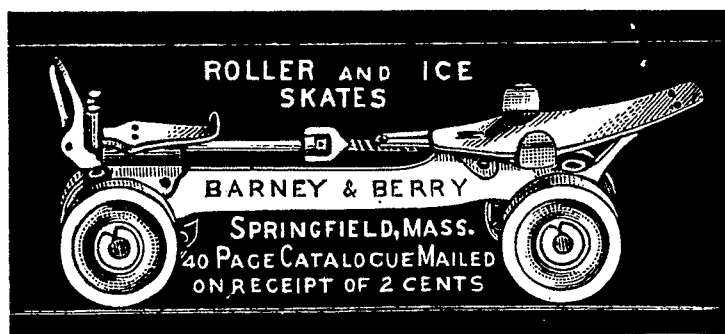
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NO. 2.

THE CONCORDIENSIS

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EDITORIAL.

WE call attention to communicated articles on base ball and the condition of the college. They are of interest to every student, and being written by men outside of the editorial board, show that they are important.

AS it is understood that we are to have a ball nine, and are to send men to the collegiate contest, is it not a good plan to devise some means to raise funds before the end of the term? The entertainment given last year, successful as it was, would have been a greater success had we gone to work earlier in the winter. While we have not the material to produce an entertainment like last year's, there are still many ways to raise the same funds. Let a college meeting be called and the most feasible plans discussed.

CONTRARY to general expectation a great deal of interest has been developed in the Senate by the Seniors, and there is little cause for complaint. Yet we think that if a little time should be employed outside of the Senate by each member in studying parliamentary practice, and more especially the college senate rules, a good deal of needless confusion would be avoided and a greater amount of progress made during the meetings. We would also recommend that more time be devoted to discussing the more important measures than is now the case. With a little effort on the part of the members there is no reason why the Senate should not be both enjoyable and profitable.

NOW that we are to have orations in chapel for the rest of the year, a few words on the subject will not be out of place. As it is, without doubt, a beneficial exercise, and as it has been settled that we are to have orations, it remains for the Seniors to enter into the work with some spirit, and to make the Friday morning exercises a success. Often as attention has been called to the fact that not one student in ten exhibits respect for chapel exercises, or for the one who officiates, no effort is made on the part of the students to present a more respectful and attentive appearance. This does not seem to be a very flagrant breach of good manners until the student is called upon to address the interesting (if not interested) audience, to which he himself belonged a moment ago, and then one glance is sufficient to show him what a disgraceful view we have of chapel decorum. All that we can do is to ask the students in general to remember that chapel is not a place for study, and that respect for the place, for whoever officiates and for the orators, demands at least an approximation to silence and attention.

A GREAT deal of space in the newspapers has been devoted recently to considering the question of the removal of the college to Albany. We have every reason for believing that this is only mere talk, yet if anyone seriously entertains the idea, they will see the impracticability of such a movement by carefully considering the objections. Dr. Murray says: "There is one objection which, perhaps, may seem sentimental, and yet is quite real, and that is that the attachment naturally felt toward the college by its alumni would be in a measure destroyed as soon as the associations were swept away by a change of sites. In a measure the college would have to take root anew." The statement might have been made much stronger, for in the event of such removal there would be left only a few members of the faculty to remind the alumni of an institution which they knew and loved as "Old Union." In fact, a removal would be nothing less than the fall of "Union" and the founding of an entirely new college.

WITH little hope of success we make the annual appeal in behalf of our literary societies. The present condition of these societies reflects discredit on our college and on the character of the students. In other institutions the literary societies are one of the most important features of college life, and we venture to affirm that every graduate who actively participated in the work of our own Adelpic and Philomethan would declare that the experience in speaking, ability to think on one's feet, and abundance of useful knowledge gained by work in these societies are of as much real benefit to them as anything acquired during the college course. Nevertheless, with all the advantages to be derived, with good halls and libraries, our societies are almost a complete failure owing to the small membership and lack of attendance by those who are members. We appeal to the students to remedy this evil and restore "Old Union" to her former high position in this respect. Let the members, at least, make a determined effort to revive the interest, if not for the benefit to be received, for their own honor and reputation.

We think that if a series of public debates between the two societies was inaugurated, calculated to show the benefit of their work, the interest would be awakened and the societies would soon regain their former prominent position. At least it will do no harm to make the trial.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Base Ball.

Walking down town recently behind some under-classmen I overheard the following remarks:

F.—"Who's going to be base-ball director this year?"

S.—"Don't need one unless we have a better nine than last season, and I for one can't see where or how we are going to get any good players."

It was rather a bitter remark to catch, and perhaps the adage that "listeners never hear any good of themselves" was true. However, nothing is in vain, and that remark was good food for thought.

Thought No. 1.—It is settled who is to be our ball director. And it is due to the senior class to say that for once they laid aside factional feeling and elected a man who is interested in the nine, and who many times has shown his interest in athletics at Union, and who, we hope and believe, will make a good director.

Thought No. 2.—"Have a better nine than last year." I had a ready solution for this, but one which does not rest with the director, nor captain, nor any individual player, but with all the nine and with the support of all the students, backed by the hearty support and approval of the faculty. Now, can this be accomplished? I think it can. I think every one will agree with me in saying that, as freshmen, Union enters as good players as any college in the State league, with perhaps the exception of Cornell, which is a much larger institution. Also that we have ample means to develop players if we would. Why can't we; or, rather, why don't we

do it? In the season of '82 the nine, with Anable and McCauley, made a great reputation for Union in the ball arena—but an honest one. In '83 the nine could not bear to drop below the previous nine, and in came "Pendy" at a great expense. In '84 the dishonest victories were followed up by placing "Union" on the breasts of two more professionals, and thus incurring an additional debt which was left for the association to struggle with, and which greatly hindered the formation of last year's nine. Last year public sentiment—perhaps it was lack of money—caused a nine to be formed of legitimate players, men who had never played together before, and most of whom had done no "gym" work all winter. After the first two games, which were in fact terrible exhibitions of our national game, sentiment, aided perhaps by malice and meanness, was so strong that it was with difficulty any nine at all was placed in the field. Even then one-fourth of the expenses were borne by the players themselves. What was the result? It was not good. It might have been worse. We had a show for second place had the last game been played. We stood third. We also demonstrated the fact that the nine could be run without leaving a debt for this year. Now there is only one way in which we can solve the last part of S.'s query of how we are going to get any good players, and that is expressed in the small word—work. We have the raw material. Shall we develop it? Yes. Emphatically yes. Look at what Cornell did by work. Their nine was in as deplorable a state as was ours. They worked. We didn't. They took first place. We didn't. We have a good gymnasium and an exceptionally good man in charge. Let the men who are put in the "gym" try to see what they can do. There will soon be a goodly number who will be put there to do allotted work, not simply to report at the dressing room and lazily smoke a cigarette. Let your college spirit out, if you have any, and try to boom the ball interest of "Old Union." If you haven't any college spirit keep still. Stay away, anywhere you please; don't throw cold water on someone else. Don't come near the games, and

provided we should win a game please don't say *we* beat—but *they* beat. And, if we do go under, remember you helped do it, and when you graduate see if you can't get an appointment as successor to Lieut. Greeley and search for the north pole, where you will find plenty of cold water to throw on other's schemes. CAPTAIN.

The Condition of the College.

UNION has begun the present year more favorably than for several years past. A disposition to make the best of everything prevails throughout the college. Although the present freshman class is small, most of its members come from our immediate vicinity, where the true state of the college is known. To an outsider, obtaining his knowledge only from the newspapers, the troubles which divided the Faculty and President would seem necessarily to have interfered with instruction. In fact, however, if the newspapers had not fanned the spark of discord into a flame, the students would never have been heated through partisanship; and the dissension would have been quieted without their knowledge of its existence. As it was, the work of the college moved steadily on without any apparent friction. The professors may have disagreed with one another, but they did not allow this to affect their relations toward the students. Now all are united. We have no President, it is true, but that officer is not a necessity to the educational part of the college. He would, however, quiet the minds of people ignorant on the subject; and for this reason it is to be hoped that we will soon have a head to our institution.

The instruction did, however, have one serious drawback; our corps of professors was too small. Through death we had lost two of them, and last commencement we were informed of the resignation from the faculty of a third whom we all loved. Altogether it looked blue for the prospects of this year. To fill these vacancies three new professors have been chosen, and a fourth has been made through promotion. Out of the four it would naturally

be expected that at least one would not be competent. But fortunately for Union the trustees were particularly happy in their selections.

The chair of English has been only partially filled for many years. The professors who attended to that department had so many other duties, that through neglect, it became weak. Now we have a professor who gives to that branch, not only all of his time, but also abilities of a high order, and love for his work. This department only began, as it were, this year, and therefore the indications for the future are very promising.

Prof. Wright was called to take the chair of one of the ablest professors, and, perhaps, the most popular of the college. That he fills his place is sufficiently great praise.

The studies of the Senior year are expected to stir up in the student his reasoning powers and to furnish him with food for thought for future years. God created Prof. Hoffman especially for this purpose.

There is no need to mention the work done in the other departments. We know its merits. Yet, because of the increase in the numbers of the faculty, all of the professors have more time to devote to their special branches, and their instruction has, therefore, improved. They are, of course, the same men, but they now can confine themselves to their own specialties. While there may be one or two professors who cannot pound learning into a student, yet, from all of our instructors, a student hungering for knowledge can be filled.

A college is composed of professors and students. Our professors are competent to instruct us, and they take an active interest in us outside of the class-room. Last year, when the expenditures of the ball nine exceeded the receipts, the professors made up the deficit; and this year they are taking an active interest in our prayer meetings, and through God's help will make them a success. To any of our organizations they are willing to devote their time, money and brains. In the past we students have not always been as willing to do as much for our college. Our studies are reasonably difficult, and, if prop-

erly attended to, take much of our time. But those students who plead lack of time as an excuse from the attendance to the duty of making our organizations a success are the very men who waste most time. He who accuses the trustees and alumni of neglect of the college is generally the one who fails to make his particular part of the college a success. The hard worker, who bends his best energies toward the accomplishment of an object, even though he fail, yet benefits the college; but he who cavils at every scheme calculated to bring credit upon the students, but who, when it is a success, appropriates the credit to himself, acts as a wet blanket upon the ardor of every son loving his alma-mater.

During this year, however, the students seem to feel that they can make their enterprises successful, if they will only try. We must understand that we are in a small college, and that it is therefore necessary to concentrate our energies upon those lines in which we are most likely to prosper. Aiding the professors by good recitations in the class-room, aided by their advice in our own concerns, and working to carry out our plans, let us do what we can toward making the college strong.

EXCHANGES.

The *Nassau Lit.* comes for the first time to our table, and in adding it to our list we feel not only pleased but honored. From our previous ideas of college literary magazines we expected to find the pages as dry as—well, the *Madisonensis* for instance, but the well written sketches, stories and "Voices" of the *Nassau Lit.* are anything but dry. In justice to "A Word to College Critics," we must say that our judgment of the literary work of college men is materially aided by the able article. It is a fact that we expect too much from the average writer; that, having in mind the plots, descriptions and delineations of prominent writers, we adopt these writers as our standard and require college men to place themselves in the ranks of noted writers with their first attempt. The *Nassau Lit.* is an ably edited magazine.

forehead. It seems I had fallen in such a way that my forehead came in contact with the farther rail, rendering me senseless and leaving a short, jagged cut. The doctor told me that an unknown man had, at his own risk, dragged me from the track just before the heavy train rolled by. Upon asking to see my preserver I was told that he had gone, and that when it was suggested to him by the bystanders that it might be to his advantage to wait till I "came to," he said that I had done him a good turn that day and that he had no more than returned it. Immediately I thought of my strange visitor and congratulated myself upon having done a charitable deed at so opportune a time.

I saw nothing more of my hero till about a year later. It was my Junior year, and having a little spare time I had taken up amateur photography. I had succeeded quite well in taking views of the surrounding country, and at the time of which I am writing, was engaged in taking instantaneous views.

It was Thanksgiving again. The day had dawned bright and clear, and having no invitation for dinner, I shouldered my camera and started out for the country. Noon found me about a mile outside the city on a road from which could be obtained a fine view of the valley and the range of hills opposite. Noticing a man, with the appearance of a tramp, coming down the road, I determined to get an instantaneous view of him as he passed. Accordingly I placed the camera near the fence on the side of the road opposite the path and focused it on a tree just in front of which the path ran. Everything was ready, and leaning on the fence I appeared to be taking in the view of the valley regardless of the presence of anyone. At any rate the man just glanced at me curiously for an instant and then looked steadily at the ground as he tramped on. Just as he passed between me and the tree I exposed the plate. So occupied had I been in carrying out my scheme that I did not look at the man closely, but on printing from the negative next day I recognized in the picture a face which I have reason to remember.

It was the man who had saved my life just a

year ago! The picture was a good one—the best I had taken. I mounted one, labeled it "My Hero," dated it and placed it with my collection.

Returning that evening from my photographic tour, I learned from the papers the details of a murder that day in Northville, a small village about ten miles to the east. George Kilmer, stable-boy of the only hotel Northville sported, had been fatally stabbed in the breast, about noon. He had been found dead in the barn about one o'clock, and as he had eaten dinner at twelve it was certain that the murder had been committed during the hour. Who was the murderer was a matter of conjecture, but suspicion settled on one John Rankin, who was at that time missing. It was known that he and Kilmer had had a dispute that morning, ending in blows, but nothing had been seen of Rankin later in the day.

Some time in January Rankin was captured, and the trial came off a month later. Feeling a little interested in the trial I entered the courtroom one day near the close of the trial.

The evidence, which was mostly circumstantial, was decidedly against the prisoner. A strong feeling of hatred had been shown to exist between Kilmer and Rankin and the fact that they had had a fight that morning, and that Rankin had got the worst of it, was dead against him. He had failed to prove an alibi, and the case was about to go to the jury. Just as the judge was to deliver the charge, the prisoner turned half around in his chair, and turning his eyes on the crowd of spectators seemed looking in vain for a friendly face. Until now I had not seen the prisoner's face, and as his eyes met mine there seemed something strangely familiar in his rough, despairing countenance. Suddenly it all flashed over me.

He was "My Hero."

The recognition was mutual, and an instant later the man was on his feet and cried, as he pointed to me: "There is the man who can prove me innocent. For God's sake, sir, save an innocent man."

Tableau!

